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"OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY AND OUR BROTHER MAN."

TERMS: Two Dollars, in Advance.

Vol. XLVI.

No. 21.

Maine Farmer.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.

"Golden Texts."

Selected from late issues of the MAINE FARMER.

The temporal salvation of the farmers of Maine depends upon AN ABUNDANCE OF MANURE.

Production of shelled Indian Corn per acre, in bushels, in this State during 1877:

S. R. Sweetser, Cumberland, EIGHTY-SEVEN.

H. P. Kestrel, Harrison, EIGHTY, at a cost of 23 cents per bushel.

D. D. Dolby, Exeter, EIGHTY-NINE.

Athlon Caryle, Harrison, SEVENTY-TWO at a cost of 32 cents per bushel.

Charles Copeland, Holden, ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SEVEN.

Maine farmers should produce more milk, butter, cheese, beef, mutton, pork and wool, and less hay.

A direct and actual loss of more than \$2,000,000 annually, comes to the farmers of our State through want of economy in saving the home resources of manures and fertilization.

A few crops of wheat raised in 1877:

Eliot L. S. Moore, Limerick, raised 184 bushels of winter wheat from eight acres, or 23 bushels per acre.

One school district in Mt. Vernon, produced 425 bushels.

O. Pike, Princeton, raised 50 bushels from two acres.

J. K. Thistlewood, Alexander, raised 52 bushels from ONE ACRE.

O. E. Lofstrom, Topsheld, raised 23 bushels from 133 rods of land.

In the Dead River valley FOUR THOUSAND bushels of wheat were raised, and 2,500 bushels were grown at a single mill.

Luther Nile, Bangor, raised 200 bushels.

In a small school district in Aroostook county, 618 bushels were raised.

C. A. Spaulding, Vassalboro, 60 bushels.

At the mill of J. A. Porter & Sons, Camden, 3,400 bushels were ground, up to Jan. 1, 1878.

Washington Hall, Brewer, raised 207 bushels on FIVE ACRES, or over FORTY BUSHELS per acre.

Teetotal farmers in Freedon raised 638 bushels.

Higher and better farming, better culture, better feeding of farm stock, and increased production without diminishing the fertility of the soil, is just now the duty of every farmer in Maine.

The cheese factories and the butter dairy must not be neglected—but every effort should be made to produce the best article of both butter and cheese, which always commands a good price, and sell them when in their best condition.

Obituary.

The late Willard C. Flagg.

The death of few men connected with our agricultural progress and advancement could leave a greater vacancy than is felt at the recent decease of Hon. Willard C. Flagg of Illinois, who died at his residence in Muro in that State, at the comparatively early age of 49. He graduated at Yale with high honors in 1854, and, returning to his native State, he applied himself to the labors of the farm, which he thoroughly loved, although he did not neglect the pursuits of literature. He has been for many years closely identified with the agricultural interests of the great state of Illinois, having been secretary of its Horticultural Society, a Trustee and Secretary of the State Industrial University, President of the National Agricultural Congress, and Secretary of the American Pomological Society, which latter position he occupied at the time of his death. He had also been a Senator in the State Legislature for several terms. Mr. Flagg was a Western man to all intense and purposes, but he was, what is still better, a truly national man; and few persons had so strong an influence in shaping and directing agricultural progress, that, and improvement during the last fifteen years as he has had. At the time of his decease, he was engaged upon an "American Encyclopedia of Agriculture," which work it is hoped will be carried on to completion by his co-laborer, Dr. E. Lewis Sturtevant of Massachusetts. The *Prairie Farmer* says: "In his public, as in his private life, he was a spotless, and he was universally esteemed for his probity, social qualities and high culture."

Farms in the Dead River Valley.

We have received several inquiries in regard to lands in the Dead River country, which we are at present unable to answer. These relate to the price of the lands, who has them for sale, and what are the terms of payment. If parties are able to give this information, we trust they will do so through our columns, as they will thus reach many who are now thinking of taking up farms in some of the new sections of our State, and who want to obtain just this sort of information. Please make the *Maine Farmer* the medium of making known such facts, and we will extend the largest liberty in asking and answering questions upon the subject.

Editorial Notes.

We surrender a large share of our present number to the favors of correspondents, and shall probably be obliged to give them equal space in our next week's impression, in order that we may get abreast with present demands upon our columns, and take up several subjects of immediate interest and concern.

At the head of this column we have placed a few facts, figures and statements gleaned from a half hour's examination of our files for the past few months. They will be suggestive to every active, thoughtful reader, and are full of significance just as the work of another season is opening upon us. Study these "golden texts" well brother farmers, and make applications of them in your own farming the present season, so far as their adoption and application fit the circumstances and conditions in which you are respectively placed.

Mr. E. A. Cliffe of Fairfield has for several years bred the Light Brahmas with great care, and at the fair of the Central Maine Poultry Society has been a leading exhibitor and high winner. His advertisement appears in our journal.

Communications.

for the *Maine Farmer*.

A Chapter of Experience with King Corn.

The Best Soil for Corn.

Generally speaking, gravelly land is not good for corn, unless well mixed with manure. A potato field is just as bad as a good farmer would be after if he wants to raise a good crop of corn. Always follow potato with corn if it is possible to do; but if either is to be raised, let it be planted close together, with a good covering of manure, so as to produce fruit at the rate of 14,000 quarts to the acre. Other varieties upon my grounds are worthy of mention, but they need not be spoken of.

It is one of the beauties of this fruit that it can be grown so generally throughout our land upon almost all soils, and in nearly all localities. Corresponding with the *Shoreham*, *Stetson*, *Wheaton*, *Coast*, who have received plants through the mail, report excellent success with the same kinds that we here esteem so highly. — i.e. land for corn should if possible be well drained, the preference being for land which has been under water, and which has been tilled and turned up the furrows between the rows and left the manure in the bottom unexposed to the weather. The manure will then turn up in the furrows, and you are pretty sure to find some of it with which to cover the corn, and quite sure to have enough to cover your crop especially in the fall when we return the manure. Hill-side land is preferable to flat or level land. 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Maine Farmer.

Augusta, April 20, 1878.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

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No subscriber desiring to change his post-office address or to discontinue his paper, must communicate at the same as the name of the office to which it has previously been sent, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

Collectors' Notices.

Mr. C. S. Atwater will call upon our subscribers in Cumberland County during April and May.

Freight Railroad Funding Bill.

Our Congressional summary during the past two or three weeks, has shown that the Senate has devoted much of its time to the discussion of the railroad funding bills, or measures for the settlement of the claims of the government against the Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railroad Companies.

One of these bills came from the Committee on Railroads and the other was reported by the Judiciary Committee. The former represented the interests of the railroad corporations and was supported by a powerful lobby, and the latter represented the interests of the people of the United States. Our readers are aware that the government loaned these companies large sums of money to aid in the construction of these roads, and by existing laws, the government is entitled to half the amount according to the companies on account of transportation, and in addition to this sum, five per cent of the net earnings, the whole to be applied to the payment of the claim of government against the railroads.

The bill reported from the Railroad Committee provides that the companies shall each pay annually into a sinking fund, the sum of one million dollars, the interest to be compounded every six months at six per cent. This would pay off the last debt in 1915, and its unfairness was that debt was incurred and correctly demanded by Senator M. C. Conover.

"I will give you \$10,000, secured by bond and mortgage, and should say to you, The security you have is not good; if I will not be worth the money when it becomes due, I am deriving a large income from your good debts, and I want you to give me \$1000; you will keep it and charge yourself with compound interest upon it until it amounts to \$10,000, and then you will have \$1000 left over."

I do not do that; I do just what this bill proposes to allow these railroad companies to do with their debt to the United States."

The bill reported from the Judiciary Committee provided that the companies shall establish sinking funds at one and places these funds in the custody of the government. It provides that half the sum received by government shall be applied to the payment of interest, and half carried to the sinking fund.

There shall also be paid into the sinking fund the sum of five per cent of the net earnings of the two roads, and an additional sum in cash sufficient to make the total annual payment to the sinking fund, equal to \$1,000,000 for each company.

There is a provision that in case 75 per cent of the net earnings of the two roads for any year shall not be sufficient to pay the operating expenses and interest on the first mortgage bonds which take precedence of the governments' claim, the Secretary of the Treasury may make an abatement for such year, of the full amount to be paid into the sinking fund.

In the discussion, Stanley Matthews of Ohio who favored the bill in the interest of the railroads, contended that government had no right to change the existing law without the consent of the railroad companies, notwithstanding that, in fact, it itself, Congress reserved the right to alter, amend or repeal. His speech was able, but his effort was rather that of an attorney than a statesman. His colleague Mr. Thurman who had charge of the Judiciary bill, took opposite grounds and showed conclusively that Congress had the right to pass his bill. Mr. Blaine offered the following amendment to Mr. Thurman's bill and supported it in an able speech:

"So long as the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroad Companies shall faithfully comply with the provisions of said act of 1862, and of this act, relating to the payment of the U. S. on account of bonds advanced, and of the sinking fund to be established as aforesaid, such companies shall be liable to meet the obligations to the business of Norway Village which is already the most important business on account of such bonds, prior to maturity thereof."

Mr. Blaine's amendment was rejected 34 against 23. The Thurman bill was then passed 40 to 19, more than two to one. The result is one of the worst defeats the Washington lobby has ever sustained. Washington correspondents state that during the closing hours of the debate, Jay Gould with a few friends, was in the lobby behind the Vice-Presidents' chair, receiving reports of what was transpiring, and sending in notes to his friends. The galleries were sprinkled with his agents, and some of them were even on the floor of the Senate.

One correspondent says: "There were times when we thought that such a Senator was 'gone,' and at later stages, it was found that he was safe." Albany at its worst, has shown no more visible, busy efforts to buy protection and purchase immunity."

Judge Peters may be cancelled.

The Gardner Journal says: "The diptheria has been prevailing to quite an extent in that vicinity, during the last two weeks. In one family they were nearly all sick, and two of them died with it. On Spring street, three persons were attacked, and one died Saturday. Several other cases are reported in other parts of the city."

The selection of Waterville have decided to reopen the town liquor agency.

The house of Representatives voted to sustain the bill.

Mr. Blaine's bill was then referred to the Select Committee on Education, 67 Chester Square.

We hear that stock has been taken sufficient to insure the building of the Norwegian railroad, and that work will soon commence. The Norwegians people have any amount of push to them, and when they undertake a project calculated to benefit the town, they are unsparring in their efforts to accomplish it. There is no doubt that the proposed branch will add immensely to the business of Norway Village which is already the most important business on account of such bonds, prior to maturity thereof."

Adjutant General Cliley, who has been spending a few days in Washington, returned early last week. While at Washington, he had the rolls of Maine soldiers in the last war with Great Britain, and also obtained 1,500 names additional to those contained in the volume purchased of Mr. Harmon last winter. That will make the list of Maine soldiers of that war more complete and intelligible than the record of any other state.

We are sorry to learn that Mr. William McLaughlin for several years the faithful book-keeper and telegraph operator at the Insane Hospital is seriously ill with lung disease. He left Monday for Aiken, South Carolina, hoping to receive benefit from the milder climate of the South.

We trust that his hopes may be realized and that he may be able to return with restored health.

We hear that a new route to the Umbagog Lake is about to be opened, in connection with the Buckfield & Mechanic Falls Railroad, shortly to be put in operation.

Two lines will be built, one connecting with the Androscoggin river to Mexico, strike up Swift River through Byron.

From the latter point a short route strikes Lake Mooseelookmeguntic.

The Maine Central Railroad company are soon to issue tickets limited to the trains on which they are issued. In other words, the new tickets are not good to stop over, but will be lower, making the fare from Augusta to Boston four dollars, instead of four dollars and seventy-five cents, new charged.

Mr. Virgil A. Hedges formerly a prominent citizen of Augusta, died in Hedges Park, Sunday, at the age of 76 years. His remains were brought to Augusta for interment. The deceased was a Free Mason and Bethlehem Lodge of which he was once a member, took charge of the services at his own expense.

We repeat that farmers will do well to call at Dow & Storer's for their family groceries, this firm is selling standard meat, and that they have been sold before it costs a small part of its original value, the dividend is a very liberal one. We trust the measure will be promptly passed by the House, and have no doubt it will be.

News comes from Mexico that United States minister Foster has recognized the Diaz government of Mexico. The reasons assigned for this action is that Diaz has shown a disposition to arraign all matters of difference between the two governments, and has promptly paid as they became due, two installments of the Mexican indemnity, amounting to \$100,000. The Mexican government also expresses a readiness to enter upon negotiations for adjustment of all questions in dispute, and has been on its good behavior for at least one year.

CITY NEWS AND GOSPIAL. Mr. W. H. Stacy will erect a dwelling house south of his residence on Melville street.—There were nine deaths in this city during the month of March, three males and six females.—Barnum's Great Show will exhibit here on the 12th of June.—The young people of the Unitarian society think of repeating the Burlesque Operetta of Cinderella, which was so favorably received here last winter.—Mr. H. A. C. Chandler has been chosen agent and clerk of the First Baptist church.—L. Smith and Robert Thompson have opened a tailors' shop in Allen's block.—John May lately lost a valuable horse of congestion of the lungs.

Clapp had a nice crate of strawberries last week, the first of the season; they went off rapidly at 55 cts. per box.—The weather was unfavorable for the Grand Army boys Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and they had their house to witness their performance of the drama "Tried by Fire."

The parts were very well performed as a whole it was very creditable to the actors,

—Mr. D. M. Waitt of the Dirigo Business College thinks of building a dwelling house on School District 20, east side of the river.

—Mr. Peleg O. Jones has donated twelve dollars to the funds of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.—Mr. C. O. Pomeroy residing at the South end of Chapel street lost a bright little boy Sunday evening, who died of diphtheria of a malignant type. He was sick only a few days. Every precaution should be taken to prevent the spread of the terrible disease.

Mr. Jessie Johnson has one of the finest hair-dressing saloons ever opened in this city. His place of business is in Allen's block.

The police of Waterville brought three traps to the Kennebec jail last week, where they are to remain four months.

The Berger family will give one of their unique entertainments at Granite Hall this Thursday evening.—The County Commissioners commenced a session at the Court House Tuesday.—Gov. Connor is expected home this week.—The schools resumed in the Village District, after a vacation of two weeks.—Mr. P. O. Vickery has bought the Carroll lot on Spring street and is erecting two new houses thereon.

Mr. E. C. Allen now employs 60 hands in his Publishing establishment.—Mr. Livermore, the eloquent preacher and lecturer spoke at the Granite church Tuesday evening on "The Coming Man."—The Maine General Hospital, Portland, have acknowledged the receipt from Mrs. Sylvester Judd of \$1,000, secured by bond and mortgage, and should say to you, The security you have is not good; if I will not be worth the money when it becomes due, I am deriving a large income from my good debts, and I want you to give me \$1000; you will keep it and charge yourself with compound interest upon it until it amounts to \$10,000, and then you will have \$1000 left over."

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The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

Poetry.

We Come and Go.
It you or I
The birds would die,
And the flowers would bring.
And few would think of us with sorrow.
Yes, he is dead;
Who would care?—
The corn would grow;—
The sun would go;
And few would pass away.
How soon we pass!
How few care for us;
Remember those who turn to mold!
Who face fad?
With a smile, a shade,
Beneath the sodden churchyard cold!
Yes, it is so;
They had birth, they mourn us dead;
A day or more!
Another takes our place instead.

Our Story Teller.

A £12,000 CHEQUE.

The hour grew late, and Mr. Brand paid his chamberlain's modesty. The train had come in, and his master was troubled. Troubled by a vague sort of doubt, which haunted him in spite of his faith in Lakeside country, who said Lake was too young to fill the important position which he held, but Mr. Brand had never found his trust in Tom misplaced.

Having dinner, concerning a house with which he had extensive dealings, the merchant had despatched Lake to London, telling him to make inquiries, and in any case, to get the firm in the firm in question to take the account.

So Lake had gone from Liverpool to London. The time appointed for his return passed, and still did not come.

"I hope so, Mary; but it is very late."

"In there no other train?"

"Only the night express, and that does not run until after ten o'clock."

"Perhaps he will come, papa; he would not mind coming ten miles, even if he had to walk."

"But, papa, something may have occurred to detain him."

"Nothing should detain a man who has given his word."

The fair pleader was silenced—her father was angry, and knowing his strictness of principle, and the weight of his authority, she did not venture to speak again.

The time dragged slowly; Mr. Brand continued his restless walk, and Mary sat silent and quiet, while the fire crackled.

"I am sure, as the night express went whirling by, and from the depths of her heart there went a prayer that Lake would come safely home. Her life lesson, truth, and knowledge that he was beyond his time through any weakness or wrong, Two slow, weary hours passed. Mr. Brand was reading the paper, when he heard a sharp scurry from his pocket-book, and I strained desperately for a chance of resistance.

Their work was nearly done. Cramped in that small room, and now were awaiting like simoniacs bar, when the old gentleman in the corner awoke and came to my assistance.

"I am low, where some weapon in its descent, and my first assailant rose to meet him. Like afterwards went to the Arkansas Hot Springs, he was not very well."

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